GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:8038
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
US STAND ON HIJACKING
SANJAY PASWAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the U.S. President has given a clean chit to Pakistan with regard to the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with US; and

(d) if so, the response of U.S. Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) The US President stated on 25th January 2000, in response to a question at a press briefing, that the US does not have evidence that the Pakistani Government was in any way involved in the hijacking.

(c) Government has conveyed to a number of friendly countries, including the US, its assessment regarding the identity of individuals and organisations involved in the hijacking. The matter was also discussed with the US side during the talks held in London on January 18-19 as part of the ongoing dialogue with the US on security matters and during the first meeting of the recently constituted Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism on February 7-8 in Washington D.C.

(d) India and the US have agreed to work jointly to ensure that the perpetrators of the hijacking of IC-814 are brought to justice. The US has also acknowledged, including in the recently released report of the State Department on Patterns of Global Terrorism, that official Pakistani agencies have links with terrorist groups that were reportedly involved in the hijacking of IC-814.